

ABSTRACT

The present invention is directed to colorized rubber and methods of coloring the same, particularly vulcanized rubber, and rubber particles. The present invention is more particularly directed to colorized vulcanized rubber particles having improved color durability. The present invention is also directed to utilization of the colorized rubber as synthetic mulch. In the compositions and methods of the present invention, it is preferable that aqueous organic or inorganic pigment dispersions are mixed with vulcanized rubber particles to color coat the rubber particles. Preferably an emulsion polymer is added to the color coated particles to encapsulate the particles. The resulting colored vulcanized rubber particles exhibit improved color stability and color abrasion resistance.